

AMENDED SPECIFICATION.

Reprinted as amended under Section 8 of the Patents and Designs Acts, 1907 to 1932.

PATENT SPECIFICATION



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Complete Left: June 14, 1932.

Complete Accepted: Dec. 2, 1933.

PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION.

384,019

NATIONAL REFERENCE
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AND INVENTION

Improvements in or relating to Exercising Apparatus.

I, THOMAS GASKELL ALLEN, Company Director, of 6, Albert Court, South Kensington, in the County of London, a subject of the King of Great Britain, do hereby declare the nature of this invention to be as follows:—

This invention relates to exercising apparatus and has for its chief object to provide an apparatus of a portable character whereby walking or running exercises can be performed within the confines of a room or space in which the apparatus is situated.

According to the present invention the apparatus comprises a frame which carries an electric motor and an endless band or platform driven by this motor, together with means for starting and stopping the motor and for controlling its rate of movement so as to cause the endless band or platform to travel at any required linear speed; the person performing the walking or running exercise stands on the upper portion of the endless band or platform and walks on this portion in the opposite direction to, and at the same rate as, the movement of the said band or platform. The person thus performs all the motions of walking or running whilst occupying a stationary position within the room or space in which the apparatus is situated. The frame may be provided with wheels, castors or the devices known under the Registered Trade Mark of "Domes of Silence" for enabling the apparatus to be moved readily from place to place and the electric current for operating the motor may be supplied by an accumulator or may be carried by a flexible lead having at its end a plug for connection to the electric power or light sockets usually provided in houses.

The electric motor preferably operates the driving drum of the endless band or platform through worm gearing and the device for starting, stopping and con-

trolling the speed of the motor may be in the form of a rheostat carried by a suitable bracket attached to the frame of the apparatus, this rheostat being in a convenient position for operation by the person whilst he or she is performing the walking or running exercise. The said rheostat may have a pointer moving over a scale graduated in accordance with the linear speed of the endless band or platform in terms of miles per hour so that the person can determine the speed at which he or she is walking or running. A cyclometer operated by the motor or by the endless band or platform may also be provided for indicating in miles and yards the distance through which a point on the endless band or platform moves during any period of time and therefore the distance covered by the walker or runner during that period. The said frame may also if desired be provided with a support or rest for a book or papers so that the walker can read or dictate letters whilst taking walking exercise. The upper portion of the endless band or platform on which the person stands may if desired be supported on the frame in an anti-friction manner; for example the frame may have a horizontal support provided with rollers on which the upper portion of the endless band or platform rests, or the band or platform may be provided with a surface of glass on which the under surface of the said band or platform rests.

The length of the apparatus need not materially exceed the maximum length of stride of a person of tall stature and the width need not be materially greater than that necessary to carry an endless band or platform of sufficient width to accommodate the feet or clothing of a man or woman during normal walking or running movements.

Dated this 30th day of September, 1931.

[Price 1/-]

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HASELTINE, LAKE & Co.,

28, Southampton Buildings, London,
England, and
19-25, West 44th Street, New York,
U.S.A.,
Agents for the Applicant.

COMPLETE SPECIFICATION (AMENDED).

Improvements in or relating to Exercising Apparatus.

I, THOMAS GASKELL ALLEN, Company Director, of 6, Albert Court, South Kensington, in the County of London, a subject of the King of Great Britain, do hereby declare the nature of this invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, to be particularly described and ascertained in and by the following statement:—

This invention relates to exercising apparatus and has for its chief object to provide an apparatus of a portable character comprising a power driven endless band or platform on which a person can perform walking or running exercises within the confines of a room or space in which the apparatus is situated.

According to the present invention the apparatus comprises a portable frame which carries the endless band or platform and an electric motor for driving this band or platform together with means including a mechanical control device operable manually for starting and stopping the motor and for controlling its rate of movement so as to cause the endless band or platform to travel at any required linear speed; the person performing the walking or running exercise stands on the upper portion of the endless band or platform and walks on this portion in the opposite direction to, and at the same rate as, the movement of the said band or platform. The person thus performs all the motions of walking or running whilst occupying a stationary position within the room or space in which the apparatus is situated. The electric motor preferably operates the driving drum of the endless band or platform through worm gearing and the device for starting, stopping and controlling the speed of the motor may be in the form of a rheostat the control member of which is carried by a suitable bracket attached to the frame of the apparatus, this control member being in a convenient position for operation by the person whilst he or she is performing the walking or running exercise. A cyclo-meter operated by the motor may also be provided for indicating in miles and yards the distance through which a point on the endless band or platform moves

during any period of time and therefore the distance covered by the walker or runner during that period.

In order that the said invention may be clearly understood and readily carried into effect, the same will now be described more fully with reference to the accompanying drawing which is a vertical longitudinal section showing a constructional form of my invention.

A is the frame of the apparatus, B is the electric motor carried by the said frame and C is the endless band or platform driven by the said motor. The endless band or platform passes over two rollers C¹, C² rotatably carried by the frame. The roller C¹ is driven from the electric motor B through worm gearing and the roller C², which is an idler, is made adjustable in any suitable manner (such as by the screw gear shown) as to its distance from the roller C¹ so as to vary the tension of the endless band or platform. The frame A has an upper wall A¹ which is cut away at A² to accommodate the feet of the person walking or running on the endless band or platform and the upper portion of the latter is supported in an anti-friction manner; for example (as shown) rollers A³, A⁴ carried by the frame A may be arranged beneath the upper portion of the endless band or platform, or the frame may be provided with a smooth surface (such as an anti-friction metal or a glass surface) on which rests the under surface of the upper portion of the endless band or platform. The opening A² in the top of the frame is sufficiently long to take the stride of a person of tall stature and is sufficiently wide to accommodate the feet of a man or woman during normal walking or running movements. The upper portion of the endless band or platform extends beyond the edges of the opening A². The rear end of the frame A is provided with a pivoted step A⁴ to enable a person to ascend the apparatus or to descend therefrom.

At each side of the frame A and extending upwardly therefrom is a bracket in the form of a bent tube or bar A⁵ and the person using the apparatus is situated between these tubes or bars so that he

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or she can grasp the upper portions of the tubes or bars with the hands. One of these tubes or bars carries a cyclometer A^6 which is driven from a suitable part operated by the motor B in order to indicate in miles and yards the distance covered by the walker or runner during any period of time; in the example shown this cyclometer is driven from the idler roller C^2 through a flexible wire or cable passing through a portion of the tube A^5 . If desired a speed indicator suitably driven from the motor B may also be provided for indicating the linear speed of the endless band or platform in terms of miles per hour so that the person using the apparatus can determine the speed at which he or she is running. The said bars may also be provided with a support or rest for a book or papers so that the walker can read or dictate letters whilst taking walking exercises.

The rheostat for starting, stopping and controlling the speed of the motor B is carried in a casing D adjacent to the motor B and the operating arm or lever D^1 of this rheostat is connected by a flexible wire or cable passing through a portion of one of the tubes A^5 to a control member D^2 on the upper portion of that bar; this control member is in the form of a sleeve slidably carried by the said tube and the rheostat is so constructed that movement of the sleeve towards the front (i.e. away from the step A^4) starts and accelerates the motor and movement towards the rear slows down and stops the motor.

The frame A may be provided with wheels, castors or the devices known under the Registered Trade Mark of "Domes of Silence" for enabling the apparatus to be moved readily from place to place and the electric current for operating the motor B may be carried by a flexible lead having at its end a plug for connection to the electric power or light sockets usually provided in houses.

The person using the apparatus stands on the upper portion of the endless band or platform in a position facing the speedometer A^6 and the said upper portion is moved by the motor B in the direction of the arrow.

Having now particularly described and ascertained the nature of my said invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, I declare that what I claim is:—

1. A portable exercising apparatus of the kind set forth for enabling walking or running exercises to be performed within the confines of a room or space in which the apparatus is situated, comprising a

portable frame which carries the endless band or platform and an electric motor for driving this band or platform, together with means including a mechanical control device operable manually for starting and stopping the motor and for controlling its rate of movement so as to cause the endless band or platform to travel at any required linear speed for the purpose specified.

2. A portable exercising apparatus as in claim 1, wherein the electric motor operates the driving drum of the endless band or platform through worm gearing and the device for starting, stopping and controlling the speed of the motor is in the form of a rheostat the control member of which is carried by a suitable bracket attached to the frame of the apparatus, this control member being in a convenient position for operation by the person whilst he or she is performing the walking or running exercise substantially as described.

3. A portable exercising apparatus as in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the upper portion of the endless band or platform is supported in an anti-friction manner by the frame.

4. A portable exercising apparatus as in any of the preceding claims, wherein the frame is provided with an upper wall having therein a gap of suitable length and width above the upper portion of the endless band or platform.

5. A portable exercising apparatus as in any of the preceding claims, wherein the frame is provided with upstanding bent tubes or bars between which the person using the apparatus is situated.

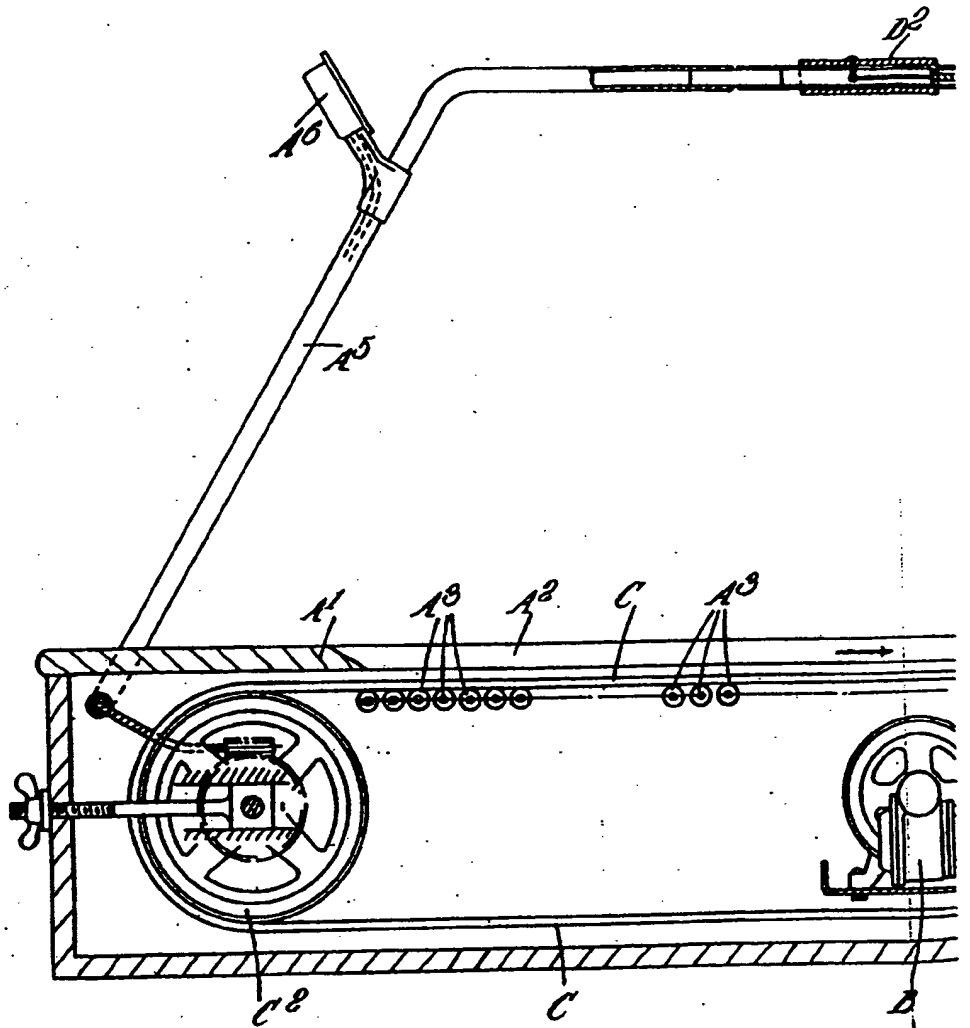
6. A portable exercising apparatus as in any of the preceding claims, wherein a cyclometer operated by the motor is provided for indicating the distance through which a point on the endless band or platform moves during any period of time.

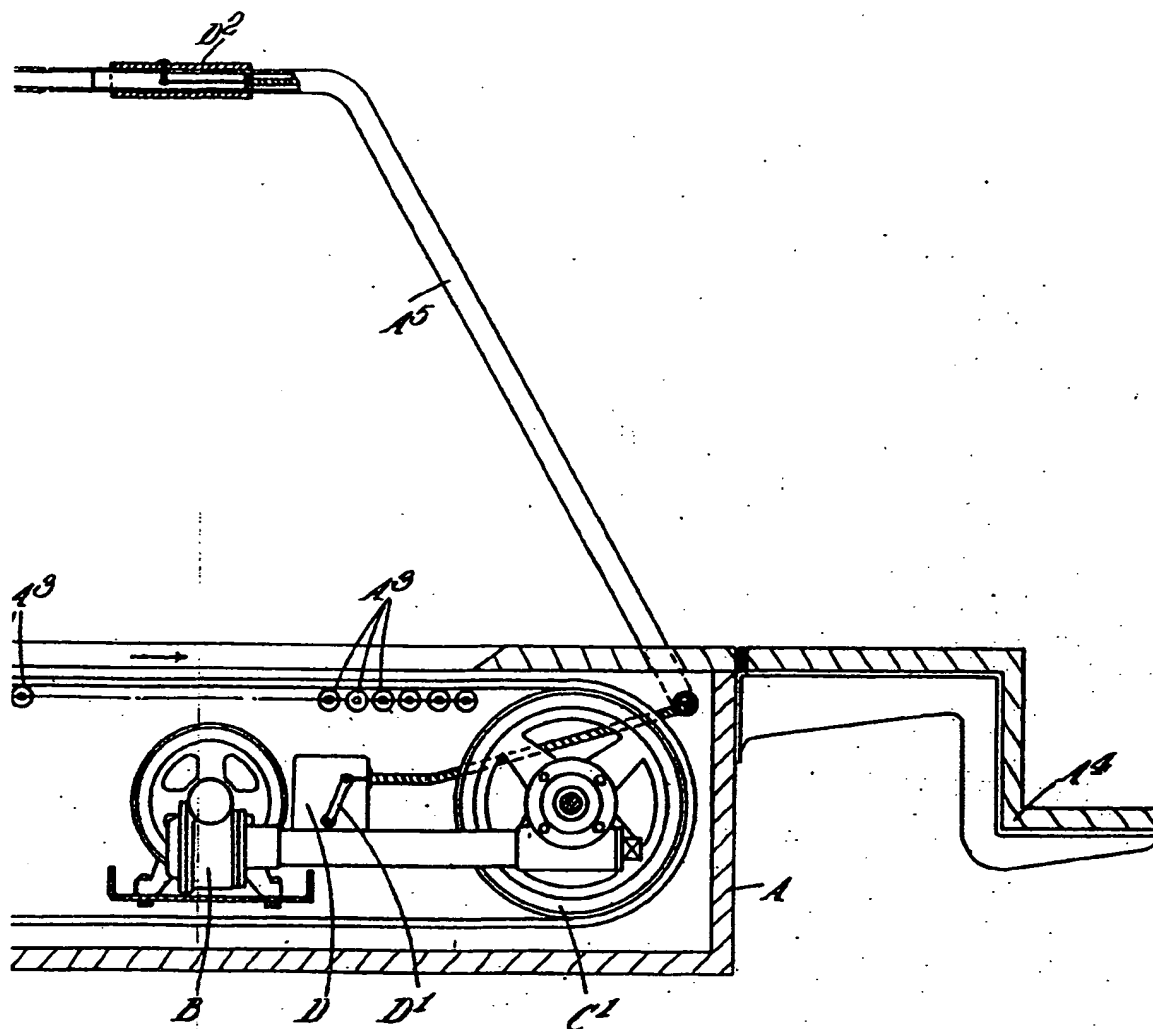
7. A portable exercising apparatus as in any of the preceding claims, wherein means are provided for indicating the linear speed of the endless band or platform.

8. A portable exercising apparatus constructed and arranged substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawing for the purpose specified.

Dated this 14th day of June, 1932.
HASELTINE, LAKE & Co.
 28, Southampton Buildings, London,
 England, and
 19-25, West 44th Street, New York,
 U.S.A.,
 Agents for the Applicant.

[This Drawing is a reproduction of the Original on a reduced scale.]





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